

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-04 ORM-01 SR-02 AID-05 IO-10 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /071 W

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O P 071220Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8831

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 401

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CB

SUBJECT: SEVENTH DAY OF KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 341

1. SUMMARY- FANK REINFORCEMENTS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN LINKING UP WITH THE 7TH DIVISION COMMAND POST, BUT FIGHTING IN THE AREA CONTINUES TO BE HEAVY. POCHENTONG AIRBASE WAS SHELLED DURING THE NIGHTS OF JANUARY 6-7, WITH NO DAMAGE DONE, ALTHOUGH THE ROUNDS LANDED CLOSE TO THEIR TARGET. THE REFUGEES CREATED BY THE FIGHTING IN THE 7TH DIVISION AREAS HAVE BEEN RELOCATED JUST NORTH OF PHNOM PENH AND GKR AND VOLUNTARY AGENCY OFFICIALS ARE DOING A GOOD JOB CARING FOR THEM. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE 7TH DIVISION AREA NORTH OF PHNOM PENH, FANK REINFORCEMENTS, AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF HARD FIGHTING, AND WITH EFFECTIVE AIR SUPPORT, LINKED UP WITH THE DIVISION COMMAND POST ON JANUARY 7. THEY NOW ARE
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PUSHING WESTWARD TOWARD THE LAST REMAINING SURROUNDED

BRIGADE HEADQUARTERS. THE SITUATION HAS IMPROVED BUT IS STILL TENSE. THE KC ARE STRONG IN THE AREA, FIGHTING IS HEAVY AND FRIENDLY POSITIONS ARE TAKING HEAVY INCOMING FIRE, PARTICULARLY THE DIVISION LOGISTICS BASE.

3. POCHENTONG AIRBASE WAS SHELLED FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT DAY ALTHOUGH THE NATURE OF THE WEAPONS USED IS NOT YET CONCLUSIVE. A TOTAL OF AT LEAST 50 ROUNDS OF 107MM ROCKETS, POSSIBLE 105MM HOWITZERS, AND INCLUDING TWENTY-SEVEN 81 MM MORTAR ROUNDS LANDED VERY CLOSE TO THE AIRPORT, BUT AS WITH THE PREVIOUS NIGHT'S ATTACK (SEE REFTTEL), CAUSED NO DAMAGE.

4. IN THE 2ND DIVISION AREA SOUTH OF PHNOM PENH, FANK FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS HAS REPORTED KILLING APPROXIMATELY 130 KC TROOPS.

5. THE KHMER AIR FORCE (KAF) CONTINUES TO OPERATE AT TOP CAPACITY, AND AS THESE REPORTS HAVE INDICATED, TO VERY GOOD EFFECT.

6 CONCERN IS GROWING AS TO THE SUPPLY OF FANK'S FUEL AND AMMUNITION. SHOULD THE MEKONG NOT BE OPENED SHORTLY, IT WILL BECOME NECESSARY TO BRING IN SUPPLIES BY C-130 AIRCRAFT.

7. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REFUGEES NOW ESTIMATED TO HAVE BEEN GENERATED SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CURRENT OFFENSIVE IS ABOUT 35,000, ALMOST 20,000 OF THEM FROM THE 7TH DIVISION AREA IN THE NORTH AND NORTHWEST. THESE LATTER REFUGEES ARE NOW ASSEMBLED IN CAMPS JUST NORTH OF PHNOM PENH AND ALONG ROUTE 5. FOOD DISTRIBUTION POINTS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED, AND GKR AND VOLUNTARY AGENCY OFFICIALS ARE DOING A GOOD JOB IN CARING FOR THEM.
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